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Identical letters dated 6 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour herewith to transmit a letter with regard to aggressive joint military exercises staged by the United States and south Korea against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) from the date of 1 March 2017, in disregard of repeated warnings by the Government of DPRK and strong protests and condemnations from internal and external communities.

These joint military exercises being staged by the United States in south Korea are the most undisguised nuclear war manoeuvres, to drive the Korean Peninsula and the rest of the North-East Asia region into nuclear disaster.

This is to mention that all different kinds of strategic assets of the United States, not only nuclear propelled aircraft carriers but also nuclear submarines, nuclear strategic bombers and stealth fighters, are all massively enlisted in these joint military exercises, Key Resolve and Foal Eagle, to wage actual war drills in accordance with a nuclear pre-emptive plan to attack DPRK by surprise.

Nobody could vouch whether, when the war drills kicked off after the introduction of a lot of nuclear strike means and huge forces into south Korea and the waters, it may go over to an actual war and, consequently, the situation on the Korean Peninsula is again inching to the brink of a nuclear war.

The United States seeks to convince public opinion that the joint military exercises Key Resolve and Foal Eagle are ascribable to DPRK access to nuclear weapons; however, this is nothing but sophism, making a profound confusion of right and wrong in the case.

Such aggressive joint military exercises and nuclear threats against DPRK were perpetrated on numerous occasions by the United States well before the period of our possession of a nuclear deterrent.

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The extreme anti-DPRK hostile policy, nuclear threats and blackmail, as well as manoeuvres to enforce its nuclear weapons, including the joint military exercises committed by the United States, are only the main reason and primary factor for DPRK to equip with nuclear attack self-defensive capabilities and strengthen its nuclear deterrent forces to a high level.

Therefore, I request that the issue of the U.S.-south Korea joint military exercises be placed on the Security Council agenda and discussed at a meeting of the Security Council with no further delay.

This is to reaffirm our position once again that the Security Council, strictly adhering to its missions and mandate, should accept our request to ensure peace and security over the Korean Peninsula and thus solve the root cause of tension of the situation over the Korean Peninsula and contribute to international peace and security in a practical way.

Should the Security Council ignore again the justified requests by DPRK to discuss the issue of U.S.-south Korea joint military exercises at the Security Council, then it would only reveal the real face of the Security Council, which only plays the role of the political tool of certain individual powers, giving up all its primary missions and the trust of international communities.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its two annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the identical letters dated 6 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement by a spokesperson for the General Staff of the Korean People's Army on 2 March 2017 with regard to joint military exercises staged by the United States and south Korea against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The largest-ever war drills will reportedly be staged by unprecedentedly huge aggressor forces, including the U.S. imperialist forces present in south Korea, reinforced U.S. forces from overseas, south Korean puppet troops and forces of various vassal states. To be involved in this muscle-flexing are various types of strategic assets, such as striking groups of U.S. nuclear carriers Ronald Reagan and Carl Vinson, nuclear submarines, nuclear strategic bombers, stealth fighters and Aegis destroyers.

Lots of U.S. war operation groups and nuclear strike means deployed in south Korea and in its vicinity have already begun moving to the positions for invasion of the north.

The enemies openly announced that Key Resolve and Foal Eagle this year would involve rehearsals for putting into more concrete shape the 4D operation for pre-emptive attack on DPRK and, at the same time, drills under the simulated conditions of deployment of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD).

The above-said sabre-rattling assumes ever-growing danger as it is under way after the U.S. imperialists secretly introduced at least 6 million tons of ammunition and war hardware into south Korea from the end of last year and recently even took measures for the urgent evacuation of families of U.S. forces in south Korea and those with U.S. citizenship staying there.

In view of the prevailing grave situation, the General Staff of the Korean People's Army (KPA) clarifies the following principled stand of the revolutionary armed forces of DPRK:

1. Now that the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet forces have again kicked off the dangerous nuclear war drills against DPRK at its doorstep, our army will counter them with the toughest counteractions as it had already declared.

This stand of ours clarified before the world is by no means empty talk.

2. Should the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet forces fire even a single shell into the waters where the sovereignty of our Republic is exercised, KPA will immediately launch its merciless military counteractions.

They should not forget that our revolutionary armed forces have everything in place and are always on alert.

3. The forces of vassal countries will be targets of our strikes as they are imprudently involved in the ongoing sabre-rattling, toeing the U.S. imperialists' hostile policy towards DPRK.

They have to bear in mind that those lackeys have always met a miserable fate for recklessly running wild, backed by their master.

KPA will mercilessly foil the nuclear war racket of the aggressors with its treasured nuclear sword of justice.

Annex II to the identical letters dated 6 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 4 March 2017 with regard to joint military exercises staged by the United States and south Korea against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The spokesperson branded the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises being staged by the U.S. in south Korea as the most undisguised nuclear war move, to throw the Korean Peninsula and the rest of North-East Asia into nuclear disaster.

Nobody can vouch whether, when the war drills kicked off after the introduction of a lot of nuclear strike means and huge forces into south Korea and the waters, it may go over to an actual war and, consequently, the situation on the Korean Peninsula is again inching close to the brink of a nuclear war.

The U.S. nuclear war drills assume a more dangerous nature as they are staged at a time when it is resorting to the worst political and economic sanctions and pressure against DPRK while finding fault with the latter's measure for bolstering its nuclear force.

The U.S. seeks to convince the public that the joint military exercises are ascribable to DPRK access to nuclear weapons, but this is sophism, making a profound confusion of right and wrong.

DPRK will never remain a passive onlooker to the new U.S. administration, overtly revealing its intention to put military pressure on DPRK and invade it while crying out for "peace by dint of strength".

The spokesperson stressed that the army and people of DPRK are unshakable in their will to further bolster the deterrence for self-defence, with the strategic nuclear force as a pivot in order to put a radical end to the danger of a nuclear war being imposed by the U.S. and deal a merciless retaliatory strike at any provocation by the invaders.